

Media release

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National Early Childhood Education and Care Commission could build the system all Australia's children deserve

Australia's largest early learning provider has backed the Federal Government's move to start the development of a national Early Education and Care (ECEC) Commission by opening discussions with State Education Ministers and the sector today.

Goodstart Early Learning has been calling for the establishment of a national ECEC commission for some years to monitor quality, safety, inclusion, workforce, and supply across the sector.

Goodstart CEO Dr Ros Baxter said today's announcement was a crucial step in ensuring that all children have access to affordable, safe, high quality early education and that families can continue to feel confident in sending their children to early learning and care.

"National discussions and agreement are critical to delivering a well-planned and truly universal system – one that ensures every community has access to early learning – and irons out problems that arise from some communities having too many services and some having far too few.

"All levels of government need to be clear about what we want from the system and what it will take to get there – from providers and from governments.

"The Commission should have a strong mandate to hold governments and providers to account for the delivery of those outcomes.

"It must pay particular attention to ensuring enough services and enough skilled workers, in the right places, so all children can access early education.

"A big piece of this will be fixing oversupply so that government dollars are not wasted and quality and safety are not compromised. When services are not viable, we can see some providers cut costs on those things that matter most to children.

"Importantly, this does not need to be about significant extra funding. It is about better coordination, better planning and the right powers to stand against an aggressive market and stand for children.

"We particularly welcome the Minister's commitment that the model for the Commission will be developed in consultation with providers as well as state and territory governments, as ultimately it is providers who are responsible for the delivery of the early education at the coal face with families and children.

"Goodstart stands ready to work with governments and other organisation with a deep interest in children's outcomes on developing a blueprint for a Commission that ensures the system as a whole delivers better outcomes for children and families," Dr Baxter said.

A National ECEC Commission was a key recommendation of the [Productivity Commission review](#) of the early learning in 2024, along with abolishing the activity test, building more centres in underserved areas, increasing funding for the inclusion support program, increasing educators' wages and raising Child Care Subsidy rates to make ECEC more affordable.

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Notes for editors: Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest not for profit, early learning provider with 677 centres nationwide. For more information, visit [goodstart.org.au](https://www.goodstart.org.au). Goodstart acknowledges all Traditional Custodians across Australia, recognises First Nations peoples continued cultural and spiritual connection to the land, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We're for children, not for profit

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